



Victorian
Aboriginal Heritage
Council

STRATEGIC PLAN
2011–2014

**OUR
PURPOSE**

To work with
all Victorians for
the protection
and enjoyment
of Aboriginal
cultural heritage

**OUR
VISION**

A community that
respects Aboriginal
cultural heritage
and the cultural
responsibilities of
Traditional Owners

**MINISTER'S
FOREWORD**

I am pleased to provide this foreword to the second Strategic Plan adopted by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council. This plan builds on the progress made by the Council in its establishment phase and sets clear goals for the next three years.

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage is important for all Victorians. We all have a collective responsibility to ensure that this rich cultural heritage is appreciated and enjoyed by future generations. Central to this responsibility is recognising that Aboriginal people are the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of this cultural heritage.

I commend the members of the Council for their achievements and look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership over the next three years.



Jeanette Powell
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

**MESSAGE FROM
CHAIRPERSON**

As members of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, we are in a unique position in Australia - we are members of the only statutory body with decision making responsibilities whose members are all Traditional Owners.

We make decisions about the management of our cultural heritage and build partnerships with all Victorians to achieve our vision. To me, this is what self determination is all about.

We are proud of what we have done in our first three years. We have developed a plan for the next three years that builds on the solid platform we have put in place.

We will continue to work together as a united Council to fulfil our responsibilities and implement this plan.



Jim Berg
Chairperson

The values that drive us as a Council

- 1 Traditional Owners are the people responsible for Aboriginal cultural heritage
- 2 Unity of purpose in all we do
- 3 Respect for those we work with
- 4 Integrity and fairness in all we do
- 5 Determination to achieve our vision

Our aspirations for the next three years

- 1 To positively influence the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Parliamentary Inquiry
- 2 To provide comprehensive advice to the Minister and Secretary about Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria
- 3 To achieve maximum, appropriate RAP coverage of the State
- 4 To strengthen the resources of Council in order to deliver even better results for all stakeholders
- 5 To continue to improve the profile, standing and impact of Council
- 6 To advocate on behalf of RAPs

The measures we will use to monitor our progress

- 1 The extent to which Government seeks, responds to and accepts Council's advice
- 2 The quality of decision-making on RAP applications
- 3 The expansion of available resources for RAPs and Council
- 4 The success of a profile raising strategy
- 5 The extent to which Council lives by its values

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC)

was created under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and is the first all Aboriginal Council created under Victorian law.

Its primary function is to advise the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.

By January 2011, the VAHC had appointed nine registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) which collectively cover 56% of the state. RAPs are the primary vehicle through which Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected and managed.

The VAHC's priority for 2011–2014 is to strengthen its capacity to ensure that Traditional Owners have the leading voice in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

For further information about the VAHC, write to vahc@dpcd.vic.gov.au or phone 9208 3243.

